Priority to Solar Energy

†4034.SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to the solar energy over the hydro and the thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to exploit energy from other sources besides thermal, hydro and solar energy: and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Government is promoting all indigenous energy resources, conventional like hydro and thermal as well as non-conventional including solar, depending upon techno-economic feasibility/viability with the aim of making them complementary to each other. However, solar energy is still not competitive to conventional energy sources for large-scale power generation. Hence, it is being promoted in areas, where it is useful and viable particularly in the remote and hilly areas. A total of around 3,50,351 solar lanterns, 1,52,180 home lighting systems, 41,403 street lights, 4156 water pumps, 5,90,000 sq. metres of collector area for water heating, 5,10,000 solar cookers and 2.75 MW capacity of power plants have been installed till 31-03-2001. It is proposed to install another 85,000 solar lanterns, 35,000 home lighting systems, 3,000 street lights, 800 water pumps, 40,000 sq.metres of collector area for water heating, 25,000 solar cookers and 520 KW capacity of power plants during the current year.

(c) and (d) The other sources of non-conventional energy include wind, small hydro, biomass, urban and industrial wastes, geo-thermal and ocean energy. Studies and estimates prepared by the Ministry and various other institutions have revealed that there is a potential for generating 45,000 MW

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from wind, 15,000 MW from small-hydro, 19,500 MW from biomass, 1,700 MW from urban and industrial wastes, 10,000 MW from geo-thermal and around 15,000 MW from ocean tides in the country.

Development of Non-Conventional Energy Business market in the Country

4035. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CII and Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have co-hosted business meet on the "Development of Non-Conventional energy business market in the country" at Bangalore last year;

(b) if so, whether the steps suggested at meeting to boost renewable energy, has been examined by Government; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Business Meet on the Development of Non-Conventional Energy Business/Market in India was organized by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, through the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), for the Southern Region of the country in Bangalore during September 7-8, 2000.

(b) and (c) The major suggestions made in the Meet include, continuation of subsidies and fiscal incentives for the non-conventional energy sector, standardization of products, skill development at the grass roots level, focus on human resource development, involvement of more banks in the financing of non-conventional energy projects/systems/devices and strengthening of institutional framework for the promotion of non-conventional energy business. The suggestions made in the Meet have been well received by the Ministry and an incentive scheme for business development and export promotion has been launched.